Mobile connections

†2426. SHRI BALAWANT *alias* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of functional mobile connection (Excel) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited at present;

(b) whether the said service is available on demand;

(c) if not, the State-wise number of persons on the waiting-list; and

(d) the details of the proposal formulated to cope up with the large number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) As on 31.07.2004, the number of functional mobile connections (Excel) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are 41,56,654.

(b) and (c) With the objective to provide the services on demand, BSNL is not maintaining any waiting list of mobile connection (Excel). However, due to heavy demand, some circles have started maintaining waiting list and the same is 4,43,483 (Kerala - 24,139; UP(E)-?,09,503; Jharkhand-1,09,841).

(d) BSNL is already in the process of expanding the present network capacity of around 6 million on date to around 9 million lines with further expansion plan to raise the countrywide capacity of mobile network to 23 million by December, 2005.

Inclusion of broadband in the definition of infrastructure facility

2427. SHRIMATI KAMLAMANHAR:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.